REMARKS

It is noted, with appreciation, that the Examiner has indicated that claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 6 have been objected to because the Examiner does not feel that these claims clearly recite proper preamble and body language. As the Examiner will note, claims 1 and 6 have been amended in an attempt to eliminate the Examiner's objections with respect thereto. Accordingly, it is believed that the Examiner's rejections have been eliminated.

Claims 1-7 and 10 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Childers et al. reference, U.S. Patent 6,227,638. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to an ink tank for an ink jet printer, wherein the ink tank has an electronic memory for storing information on the contents of the ink tank. According to the present invention, the ink tank is fitted into the mounting socket of a printer for assuring reliable electrical contact between the electronic memory of the ink tank and the circuitry of the printer. As noted in Figs. 1-3 of the present application, the ink tank 10 for the ink jet printer is adapted to be inserted in an essentially horizontal movement (from left to right in Fig. 1) into a mounting socket 16 which is shown in Fig. 2 and which is provided on a machine frame of the ink jet printer. The ink tank 10 has a coupling member 18 projecting from the front end wall near the bottom of the casing 12. When the ink tank is inserted into the mounting socket 16, the coupling member 18 engages with a mating coupling member 20 so as to establish a connection between the interior of the ink tank 10 and an ink supply line 22 of the printer. Thus, the ink tank assembly of the present invention wherein the ink tank is inserted into the mounting socket requires the cooperation of various elements of the ink tank and the mounting socket for achieving a substantial horizontal insertion of the ink tank into the mounting socket. Thus, the weight of the ink tank and the ink contained therein is used for providing sufficient contact pressure between the memory button 44 and the electrical contacts of the mounting socket to

achieve a reliable electrical connection between the respective elements even when comparatively large manufacturing tolerances are in existence for the mounting socket of the printer and the end of the ink tank cooperating therewith. This ink tank assembly is compared with the teachings of the Childers et al. reference, U.S. Patent 6, 227,638 which discloses a completely different configuration when compared to the present invention wherein the ink container 12 is merely inserted "vertically" and not horizontally into the receiving station 14 as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the reference patent.

The Applicants have provided an ink tank which is adapted to readily fit into a mounting socket of a printer wherein the combination of these elements assures a reliable electrical contact between the electronic memory of the ink tank and the circuitry of the printer. This is achieved by providing an ink tank having an elongated casing in which one end thereof is adapted to be inserted into a mounting socket of an ink jet printer in an essentially horizontal direction and an electronic memory is provided on a bottom side of the casing of the ink tank so as to engage in electrical contact with the mounting socket under the weight of the ink tank. The device of the Childers et al. patent does not contemplate solving the problems recognized by the Applicants and accordingly cannot possibly suggest the Applicants' solution to said problems.

As the Examiner will note, claims 1, 6 and 10 have been amended to clearly recite the Applicants' inventive contributions and thus reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Dated: August 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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